



Medicaid Autism Waiver Development Discussion

Autism Services Legislation



- 2012 Legislative Session – HB 272 passed
 - Bill requires implementation of two-year pilot programs
 - Public Employees Health Plan Pilot
 - Autism Treatment Account
 - Medicaid Autism Waiver
 - Today's discussion will focus on Medicaid Autism Waiver

HB 272 Requirements

- Serve children in rural & underserved areas
- Serve children aged 2 through 5 years
- Admit children through an open enrollment process
- Covered services must be “proven effective”
- Funding allows an average of 200 children to be continuously served during the two year pilot period
- Department to report program effectiveness to Legislature in October 2013

Waiver Development Process



- Preliminary waiver development work done through HB 184 study (2010)
 - Legislation required Medicaid to study a range of options to serve children with ASD
 - Options were developed in consultation with parents and other key stakeholders
 - Development of a Medicaid Autism Waiver was one of the key recommendations of the study

Waiver Development Process



- Much of program design governed by HB 272 and Medicaid Regulation
- But still many opportunities to develop aspects of waiver by collaborating with parents and other stakeholders
- The Department is conducting a series of six public meetings to seek input on key waiver provisions

Logan, Ogden, Price, Provo, SLC and St. George

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Utah create a Medicaid Waiver?

- Must submit a waiver application to federal Medicaid agency (CMS)
- Must submit by July 1, 2012
- CMS typically takes 90 days for approval
 - Likely approval in October 2012

Who will be eligible for the Waiver?

- Children with ASD ages from two through five years
 - Diagnosis given by a clinician who is authorized within the scope of their licensure

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I enroll my child?

- Through an open enrollment process

When will open enrollment begin?

- **Estimated** to begin sometime between October 1 and November 15, 2012, but depends on CMS approval

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know when open enrollment is happening?

- Information will be posted on Medicaid's Autism Waiver website
<http://health.utah.gov/autismwaiver>
- While visiting website - join Waiver ListServ to receive updates
- Department will notify media, and post information on advocacy groups and other state agencies websites

Frequently Asked Questions

Will applications received during open enrollment be processed on a “first come, first served” basis?

- No, if the number of applicants exceeds 200, enrollees will be selected from a randomized list created from all applicants who applied during the open enrollment period

Frequently Asked Questions

What services will be covered in the waiver?

- Intensive Individual Supports – Consultation Service
 - Assess, establish, implement and evaluate treatment plan
 - Supervise direct staff
 - Provider must be a Licensed Psychologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or BCBA Intern
- Intensive Individual Supports – Direct Service
 - Implements the treatment plan, records data

Frequently Asked Questions

Covered Services (Continued)

- Respite Services
 - limited to maximum average of 3 hours per week
 - Family may hire staff under self-administered services model
- Financial Management Services
 - Used primarily to assist in the payment of respite service providers
- Case Management Services
 - Will be provided by DSPD (Division of Services for People with Disabilities)

Key Points for Feedback

Open Enrollment – The legislation requires that waiver enrollment be completed through an open enrollment process but flexibility exists in the way the process is developed.

- Length of open enrollment?
- Using population information from 2010 U.S. Census to determine waiver “slot” allocation by local health department regions?
- As children “age-out” the Department recommends initiating additional open enrollment cycles on a periodic basis

Key Points for Feedback

The waiver is available to children ages two through five years. Should there be a cut-off age at the time of enrollment or should any child within the two through five age range be allowed to apply?

- The Department is required to report to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the program
- Concern about being able to demonstrate effectiveness with waiver participants who only receive waiver services for a very limited time.
- Department proposes that a cut-off age be instituted that will allow the child to receive services for a minimum of 6, 9 or 12 months prior to aging-out of the program.

Additional Information

Medicaid Waiver:

Additional information is available on the Department's Medicaid Autism Waiver website:

<http://health.utah.gov/autismwaiver>

PEHP Pilot: Available only to children of state employees. Visit PEHP website:

<https://www1.pehp.org/>

Autism Treatment Account:

<http://www.health.utah.gov/cshcn/AutismTxAccount/index.html>